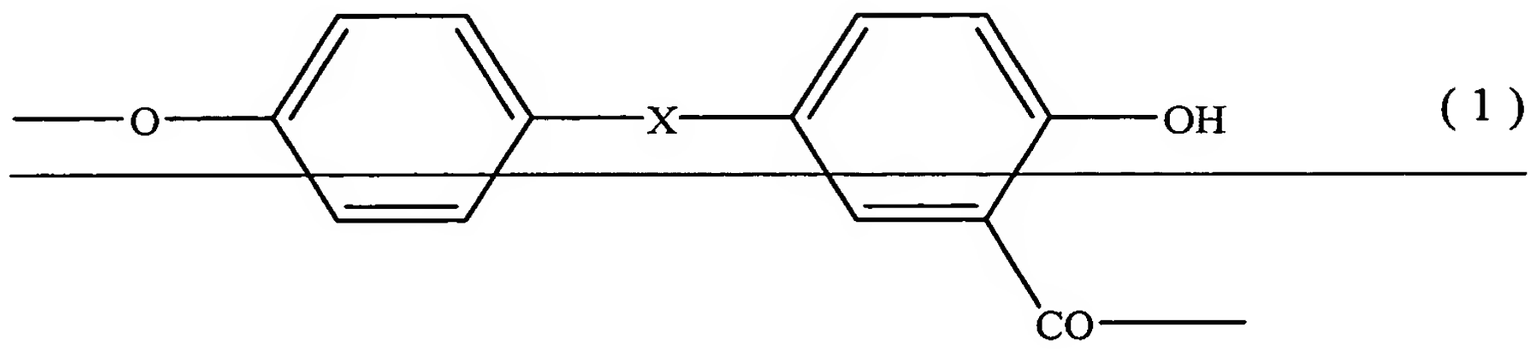
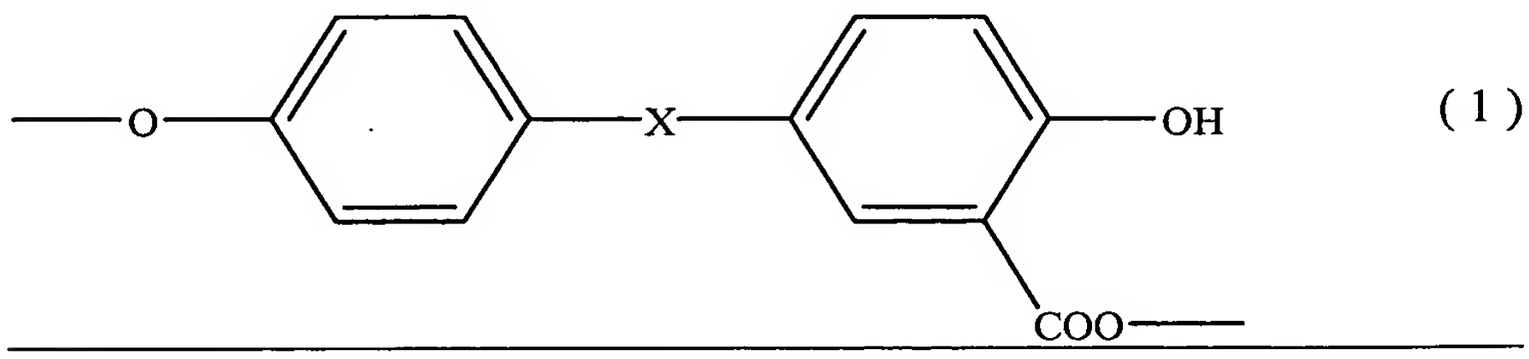
AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Namely, the present invention provides a branched aromatic polycarbonate obtained by transesterification and having a viscosity average molecular weight of at least 16,000, wherein the amount of structural units of the following formula (1) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 2,000 to 50,000 wtppm, and the amounts of structural units of the following formulae (2) and (3) contained in its main chain are within a range of from 30 to 10,000 wtppm, respectively:

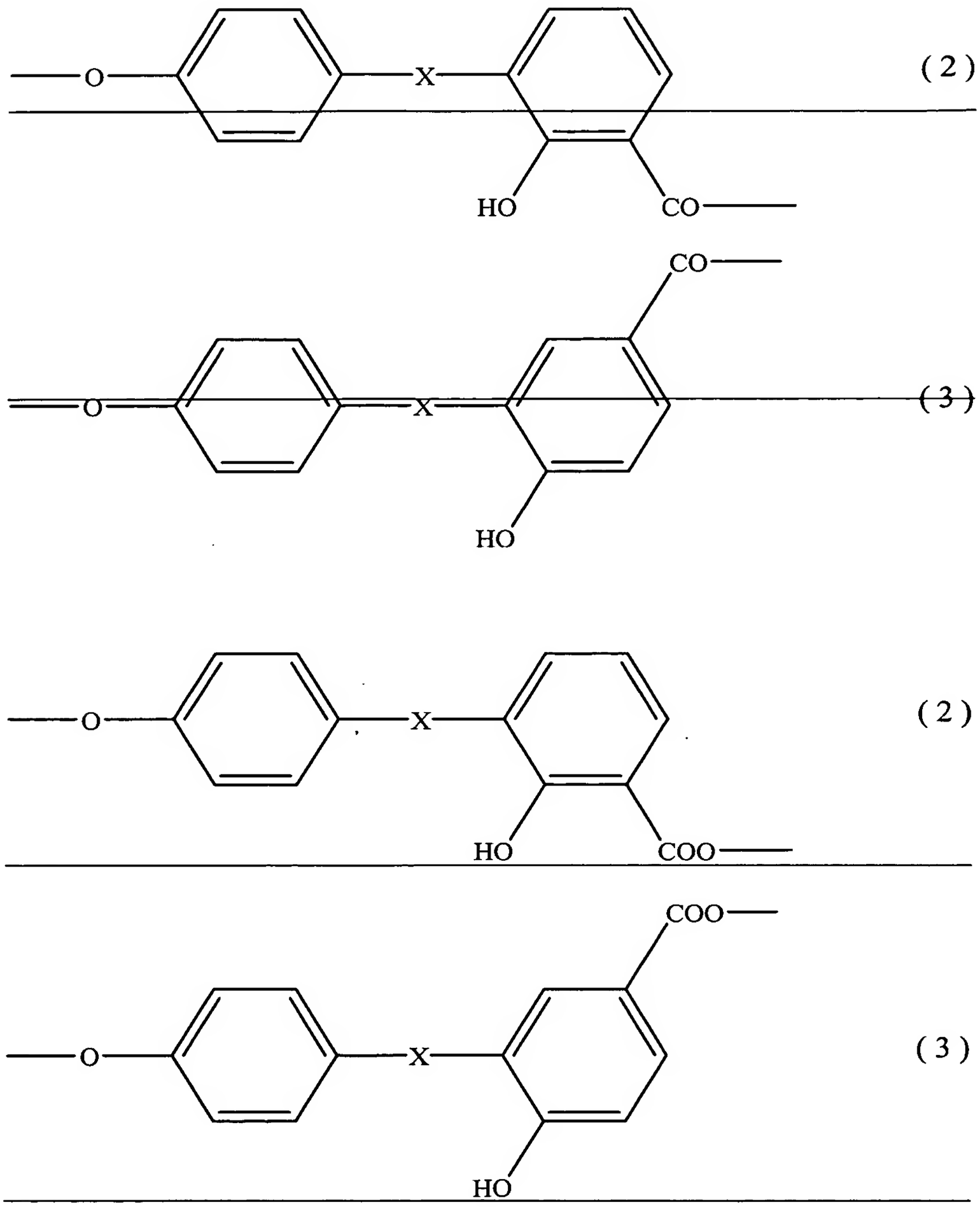


(1)



(1)

wherein X is a single bond, a C_{1-8} alkylene group, a C_{2-8} alkylidene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by –O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and $–SO_2$-,



(2)

(3)

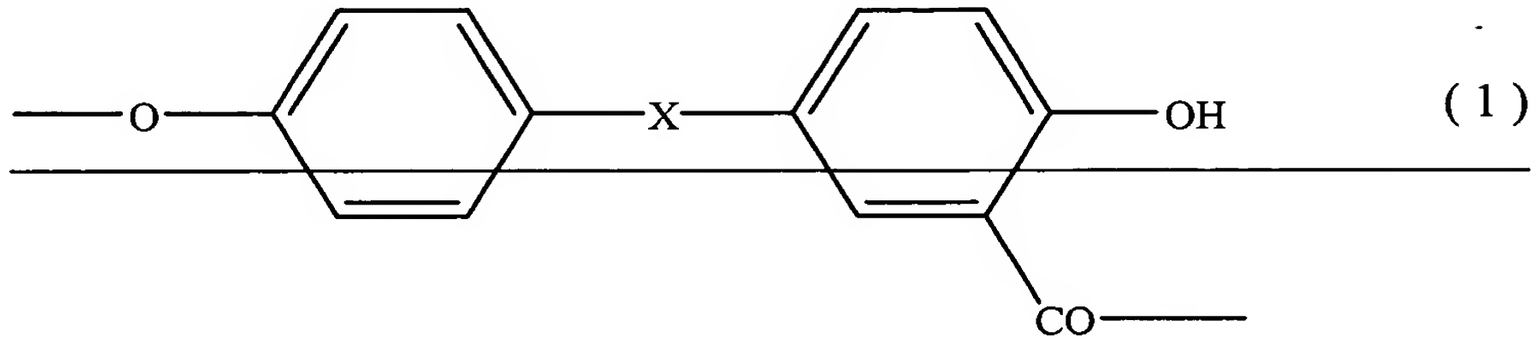
(2)

(3)

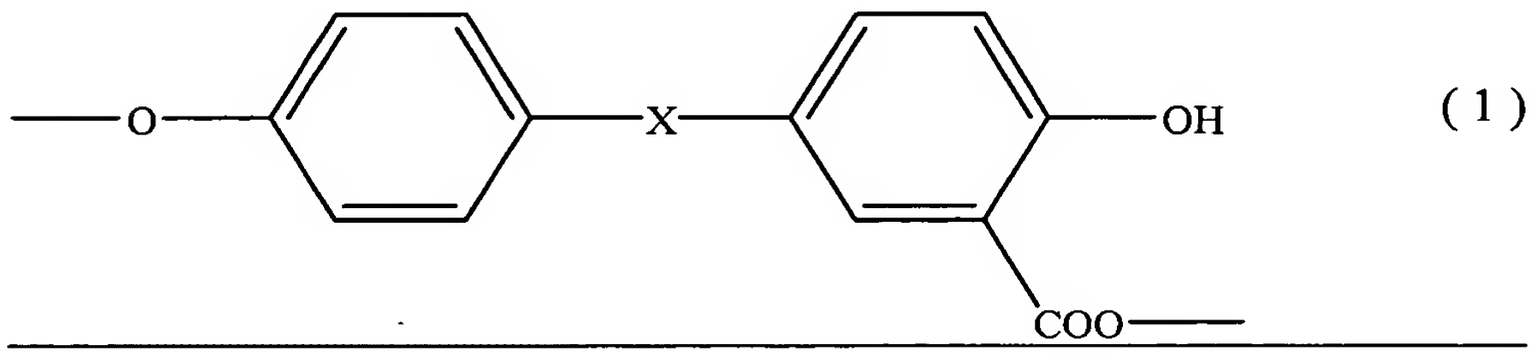
wherein X is a single bond, a C_{1-8} alkylene group, a C_{2-8} alkylidene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by –O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and $–SO_2$-.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the amount of structural units of the following formula (1) contained in the main chain of the branched aromatic polycarbonate of the present invention is required to be within a range of from 2,000 to 50,000 wtppm, preferably from 3,000 to 10,000 wtppm, more preferably from 3,100 to 9,000 wtppm, particularly preferably from 3,100 to 8,000 wtppm:



(1)

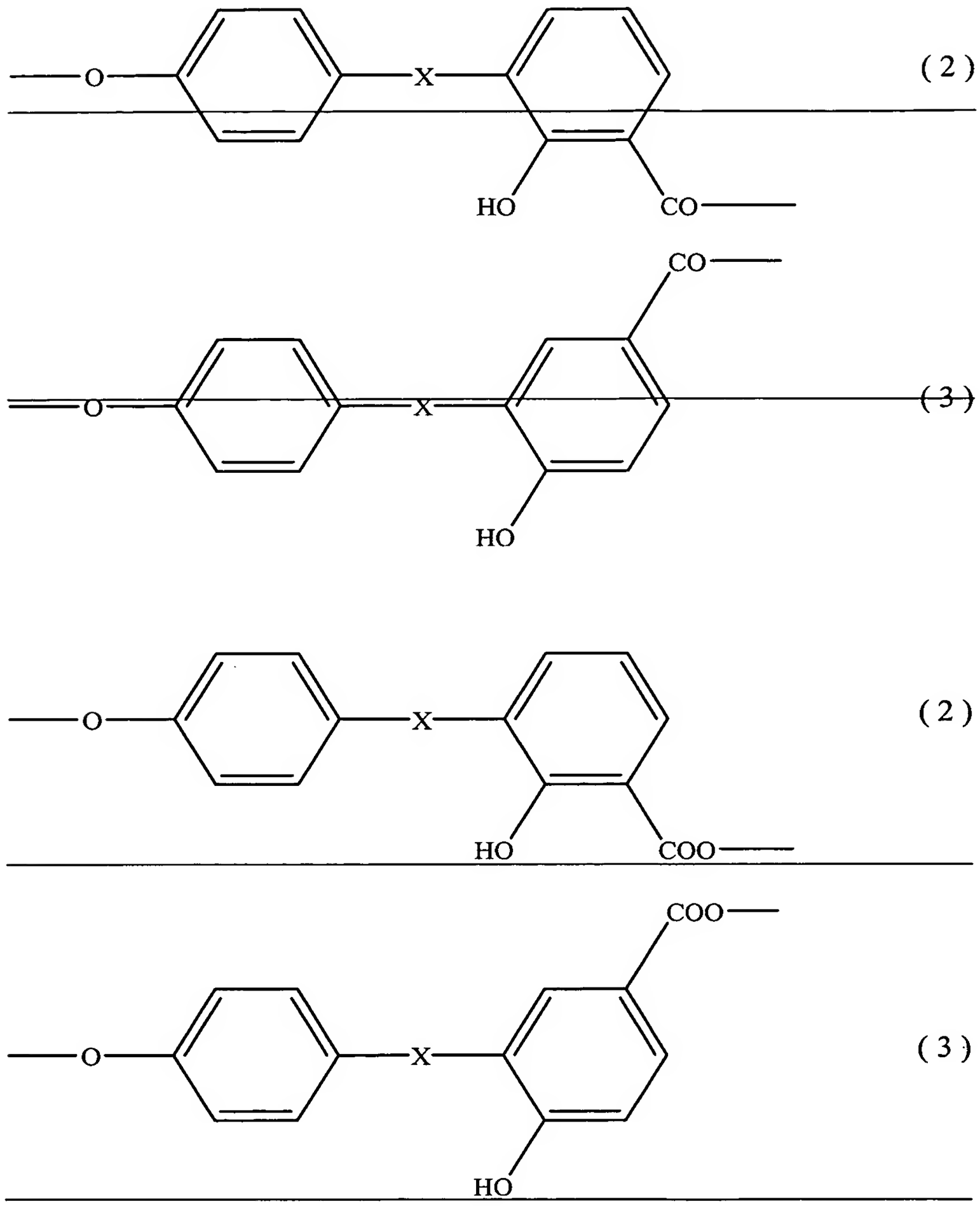


(1)

wherein X is a single bond, a C_{1-8} alkylene group, a C_{2-8} alkylidene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by –O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and $–SO_2$-. If the amount of the structural units of the formula (1) exceeds 50,000 wtppm, gel of the produced aromatic polycarbonate is likely to form, such being unfavorable, and further, the hue tends to deteriorate. On the other hand, if it is less than 2,000 wtppm, no intended melt properties by branching will be obtained.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the amounts of the structural units of the following formulae (2) and (3) contained in the main chain of the branched aromatic polycarbonate of the present invention are preferably within a range of from 30 to 10,000 wtppm, more preferably from 30 to 5,000, particularly preferably from 40 to 4,000 wtppm, respectively:

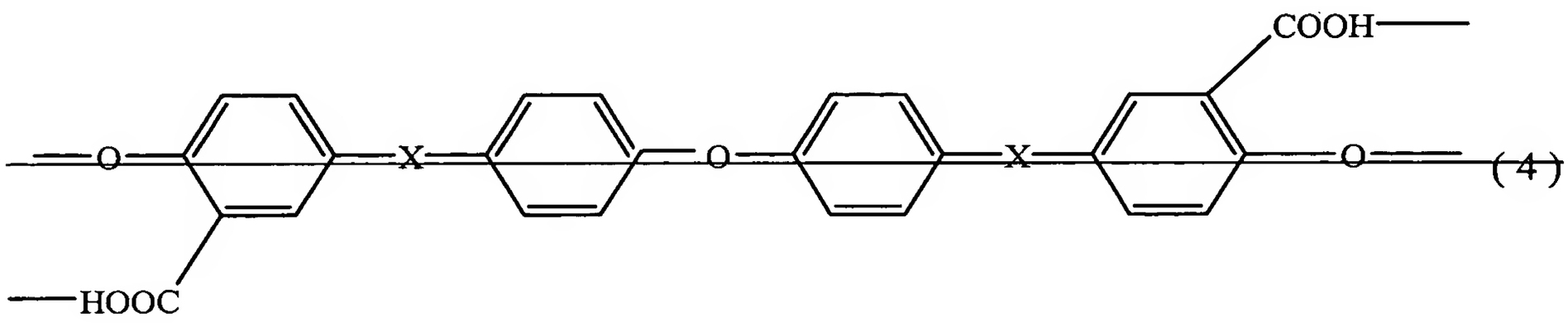


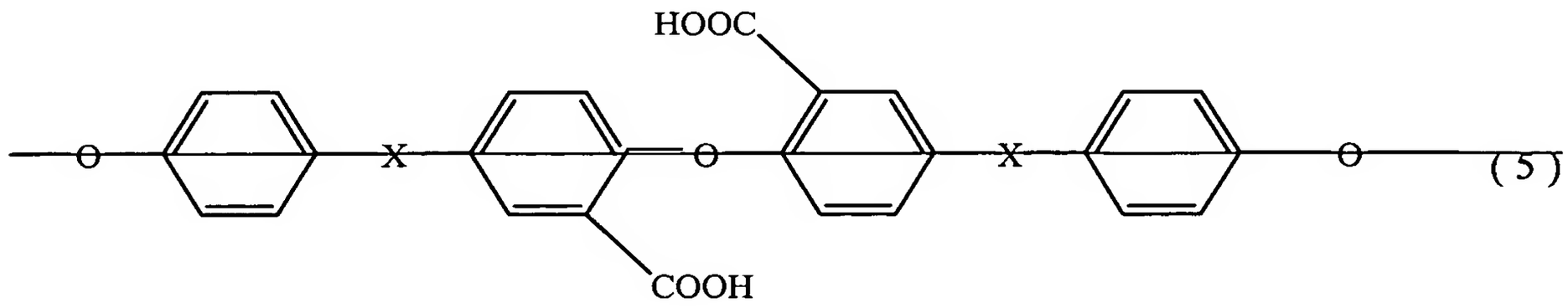
wherein X is a single bond, a C_{1-8} alkylene group, a C_{2-8} alkylidene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by –O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and –SO_2-. If the amounts of the structural units of the formulae (2) and (3) exceed 10,000 wtppm, branching tends to be too excessive, gelation tends to proceeds, whereby molding of the polymer tends to be difficult, such being unfavorable, and further, the hue tends to deteriorate. On the other hand, if they are less than

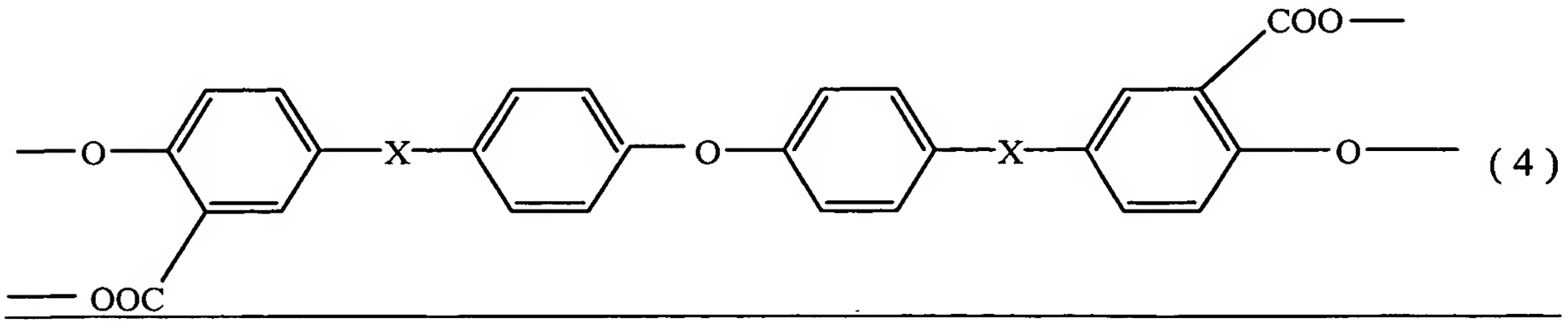
30 wtppm, fluidity under a high load will not increase, and no intended melt properties by branching will be obtained.

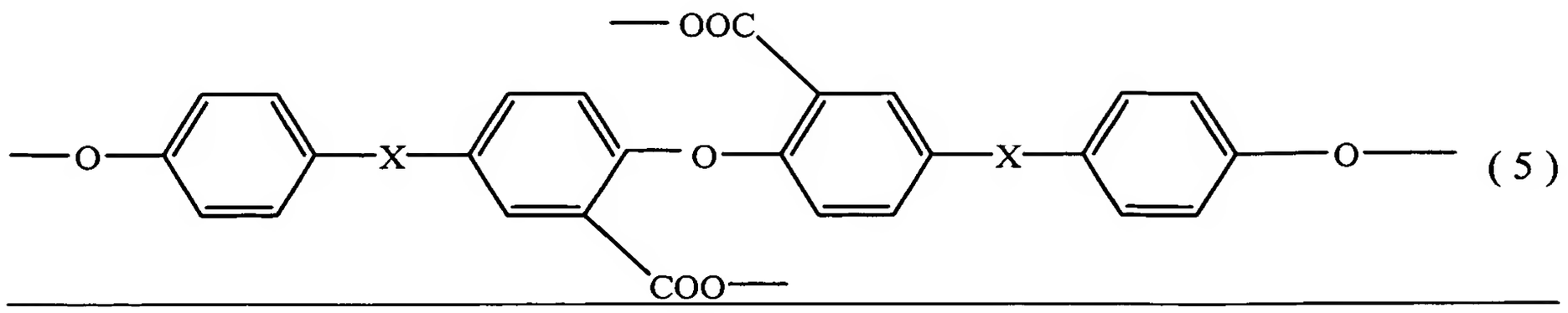
Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, in the present invention, usually structural units of the following formulae (4) and (5) are present in the main chain. Their total amount is preferably within a range of from 10 to 10,000 wtppm, more preferably from 10 to 3,000 wtppm, particularly preferably from 30 to 2,500 wtppm:









(5)

wherein X is a single bond, a C_{1-8} alkylene group, a C_{2-8} alkylidene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by –O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and $–SO_2$-. If the total amount of the structural units of the formulae (4) and (5) exceeds 10,000 wtppm, branching tends to be too excessive, gelation tends to proceed, and molding of the polymer tends to be difficult, such being unfavorable, and further, the hue tends to deteriorate. On other hand, if it is less than 10 wtppm, no melt properties by branching will be obtained.